

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: June 14, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 8, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

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Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, Railway Transfer and Storage Fire, Lexington Township, Ohio

On June 1, 2001, a fire broke out at the Railway Transfer and Storage Company facility in Stark County, Ohio. Little Tikes Company leased a portion of the facility and stored plastic toys in approximately 100,000 square feet of the main building. Thirteen local fire departments responded to the fire and a neighboring nursing home was evacuated. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) mobilized to the scene at the request of the Stark County Emergency Management Agency, and after consulting with Ohio EPA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) mobilized to the scene.

During the fire, the wind blew smoke towards a railway line and open fields; not directly impacting residential areas. Run-off water from fire fighting activities flowed through two drainage pipes into a wetland area, which flows through an unnamed tributary and the Mahoning River, into Berlin Lake, a water intake for neighboring communities.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Mark Durno mobilized the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START), who conducted air monitoring using numerous techniques, including infrared compound

identification. Breakdown products detected real-time in air and water (head-space) from the fire included benzene, toluene, styrene, and vinyl chloride. Analytical samples were collected from both air (smoke plume) and discharge water to determine off-site impacts. U.S. EPA continued to monitor the fire through June 5, 2001. After the fire was extinguished, a number of other hazardous substances and wastes were identified in the facility remains. U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA will continue to oversee the appropriate removal of these substances.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

Removal Action Completion, Orbit Enterprises Site, Battle Creek, Michigan

On June 1, 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 Emergency Response Section 1 completed the time-critical removal action at the Orbit Enterprises site in Battle Creek, Michigan. The following activities have been completed: asbestos abatement; bulking of a flammable liquid waste stream; removal and disposal of mercury switches; bulking and disposal of paint cans and miscellaneous cans; decommissioning of aboveground tanks T1 and T4; disposal of 3,750 gallons of flammable liquid waste; disposal of solids, sludges, and caustic waste streams; and, excavation and disposal of approximately 570 cubic yards of contaminated soil in the west yard, followed by clean backfilling. Geoprobe samples taken on site have been analyzed and the analytical results indicate none of the contaminant levels now exceed Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) cleanup criteria for soil.

Contact: P.C. Lall (734-692-7685)

Site Work Inspection, Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund Site, Albion, Michigan

On May 30, 2001, an inspection regarding completion of landfill erosion control work took place for the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund site in Albion, Michigan. Representatives from the private parties who are part of the 1999 Consent Decree, their contractors, and U.S. EPA were present. The site was visually inspected to confirm all the landfill improvements completed in 2000 and 2001. Locations for additional fence line gas probe vents and piezometers for site monitoring were also agreed upon.

Remedial action requirements under the 1995 Record of Decision and the 1999 remedial action Consent Decree at the site include:

removal of hazardous and liquid waste drums from the site; construction of a solid waste landfill cover including a flexible membrane liner and gas collection; installation of a groundwater monitoring system, incorporating natural attenuation for arsenic; and, institutional controls.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

Status Meeting (Congresswomen Judy Biggert), Lockformer Facility, Lisle, Illinois

On June 1, 2001, the Emergency Response Branch, along with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and the Illinois Attorney General, met with Congresswomen Judy Biggert to discuss the Lockformer case in Lisle, Illinois. The U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch was requested by Illinois EPA to assist by conducting a removal assessment at the Lockformer facility. The facility has had documented releases, starting in 1991, of trichloroethylene (TCE) at their plant in Lisle, Illinois. Over 200 private wells south of the facility have been impacted with TCE contamination. Some of the private drinking water wells are above the Maximum Concentration Levels (MCLs). The residents are being supplied with bottled water as stipulated by an order from the Illinois Attorney General and DuPage County States Attorney. Congresswomen Biggert and her staff have been kept apprized of the situation since U.S. EPA's involvement in early May. The Emergency Response Branch has reviewed all of the pending studies and ongoing investigations and will be continuing with the removal assessment and with enforcement options. The Illinois EPA is continuing sampling of the private wells to further define the extent of the TCE plume.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Bill Bolen (312-353-6316)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)/U.S. EPA Proactive Removals Project, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch (ERB) management recently agreed to visit the Superior and Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, areas to evaluate properties that are of environmental concern to local officials for possible removal actions. On April 24, 2001, representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Health (WDOH),

WDNR, and ERB On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien met with City of Fort Atkinson officials to discuss five properties that are being redeveloped as part of the Fort Atkinson Downtown Redevelopment Project. The group visited each location and observed ongoing site assessment work that is being funded by the City of Fort Atkinson.

Contact: Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)

Community Involvement Meeting, Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot, City of Elyria, Ohio

On June 6, 2001, the City of Elyria hosted their first community involvement meeting concerning the U.S. EPA Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot that is targeted at the Tappan facility in Elyria, Ohio. The meeting was designed to inform and educate the community on the Brownfields redevelopment process, explain the Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot (\$200,000 had been awarded to the City by U.S. EPA on September 30, 2000), and describe the environmental site assessment activities. The meeting was also set up to notify the community that these meetings would continue and that their involvement was desired throughout the process. The City mailed invitations for the meeting to the neighborhoods and businesses adjacent to the Tappan Property, posted a notice in the Chronicle Telegram Newspaper twice, and had the meeting announced on the City's public cable station.

At the meeting, Brooke Furio of U.S. EPA Region 5 talked about the brownfields redevelopment process and the Brownfields Site Assessment Demonstration Pilot; Nancy Zikmanis of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) talked about the Ohio Voluntary Action Program; and, Burgess & Niple, the City's consultants, talked about some of the future site assessment activities. After the presentations, during questions, a representative of Neighbors Protecting Our Environment began asking questions concerning her belief that the City of Elyria is not including the citizens in the grant process. Attempts to answer her questions were made by representatives of the City, State, U.S. EPA, and citizens in the audience.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Superfund Presentation, Midwest Regional Scrap Tire Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana

On June 6, 2001, U.S. EPA Superfund presented a case-study of the Kirby Tire Fire emergency response cleanup at the Third Midwest Regional Scrap Tire Management Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference is designed to facilitate the exchange of information regarding scrap tire markets and regulatory updates. Presentations included: regional generation and flow of tires, regional markets (current and potential), State scrap tire programs, tire-derived fuel, civil engineering applications, ground rubber markets, business planning, funding sources, and safe management guidance. The Kirby Tire Fire presentation served as an example of how improperly managed scrap tire facilities can lead to disaster. This presentation was at the request of Region 5's Paul Ruesch.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

Presentation, Indiana Hazardous Materials & Environmental Safety Conference, Greenwood, Indiana

On June 5, 2001, Sheila Calovich served as a speaker at the Indiana Hazardous Materials and Environmental Safety Conference. The conference was held in Greenwood, Indiana, and was sponsored by the Indiana Forum for Environmental Safety. Ms. Calovich's topic was Unannounced Drills at Facilities Regulated Under the Oil Pollution Act. Also, included in the presentation was a discussion of Region 5's Inland Sensitivity Maps. CD's containing the Inland Sensitivity Maps (Indiana areas) and the Oil Spill Exercise Generator were available for conference attendees.

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